BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC STATS Infoline

Issue: 02-29 9 Pages
July 19, 2002

tel (250) 387-0327
fax (250) 387-0329

All issues since 97-01 are on our website:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

highlights

a weekly digest of recently released British Columbia statistics

2001 Census

- **BC's population grew 4.9% between 1996 and 2001, but the increase was all in the older age groups.** The number of people aged 45-64 was up 21%, those 65 and over increased 12%, and the number of people aged 85 or more grew 33% during this period. Young people aged 19 and under accounted for 25% of BC's population in 2001, while 61% of BC residents were aged 20 to 64. Fourteen percent of the province's residents were 65 and older. Regions of the province with the biggest senior population include the South Okanagan, where one in four (26%) residents were 65 or older, Nanaimo (including Parksville/Qualicum) at 20%, and the Capital Regional District, where 18% of the residents were seniors. In 20 years, it is expected that one in five BC residents will be a senior citizen.

  Source 2001 Census of Canada

- **Between 1991 and 2001, the median age of BC's population increased 3.7 years, from 34.7 to 38.4.** This was just short of the median age in Nova Scotia and Quebec (both at 38.8), which was the highest in the country. The median age of all Canadians was 37.6 years in 2001, nearly two years older than in the US (35.5). France (37.6), the UK (37.7) and Russia (36.9) had populations with a similar age structure. In Germany (40.1), Italy (40.2) and Japan (41.2), half of the population was more than 40 years old. By comparison, the global median age was 26.5 years, with medians ranging from 18.1 in the least developed countries, to 37.4 in the more developed countries. The less developed countries had a median age of 24.2 years. (Median ages for countries other than Canada are for the year 2000).

  Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 96F0030XIE20001002

The Economy

- **Shipments of goods manufactured in the province increased 1.0% (seasonally adjusted) between April and May.** BC, Alberta (+1.8%) and Quebec (+0.7%) were the only provinces where shipments rose in May. Despite a flurry of activity by BC wood producers who were able to take advantage of a brief break in the US softwood lumber duties, shipments of wood products (+1.3%) rose only modestly. Overall, the value of durable goods shipped by BC manufacturers was up 0.7%. In the non-durables sector, shipments were up 1.3% largely because of a 3.8% increase in the paper industry. Food (-0.7%) shipments were down for the third time in the last four months. Producers of other non-durable products put in a mixed performance. Canadian shipments fell 1.4% in May, with the biggest monthly decline occurring in Saskatchewan (-8.2%). *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Exports of BC products were 1.8% lower this May than in the same month last year.** This was largely due to lower international shipments of energy products (-29.6%). Exports of agriculture and fish products (-5.0%) were also weaker than they had been in May 2001. However, forest product exports were up 6.1%, with international shipments of industrial goods (+6.4%) expanding at a similar rate. Machinery and equipment exports rose a more modest 1.3%.

  Canadian exports were also weak in May, dropping 3.4% as exports fell off in virtually every part of the country. Newfoundland (+26.3%), where exports were fuelled by offshore oil activity, was the only province to see a gain. Alberta's exports fell sharply (-13.8%), with declines posted in every sector. In Ontario, the value of exports was

Report **Team Canada promotes trade with Mexico**

Did you know...

There were 37,771 incidents of counterfeiting reported to the police in Canada last year. That's more than half the number of cannabis crimes (70,624) reported. Since 1991, the incidence of counterfeiting (relative to the population) has increased 489%.

down 0.3% and exports from Quebec dropped 0.4%. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Sales by wholesalers in the province were flat in May, remaining at $3.3 billion (seasonally adjusted).** At the national level, the value of sales was down 1.2%. Nova Scotia (+0.5%) and New Brunswick (+1.1%) were the only provinces to post an increase. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **New motor vehicle sales in the province advanced 4.5% (seasonally adjusted) in May.** Sales of North American-made cars slipped (-1.5%), but the number of other vehicles sold in the province was up in May. Canadian vehicle sales increased 2.2%, led by strong gains in Quebec (+5.5%), Saskatchewan (+4.9%) and BC. *Source: Statistics Canada & BC STATS*

Tourism

- **Traveller entries into Canada via BC edged up 0.5% (seasonally adjusted) in May.** The increase in the number of entries was largely due to visitors from overseas (+1.8%). Asia (+4.6%) and the South Pacific (+5.2%) were responsible for the upsurge. Entries from Europe were down 3.1%, posting their fifth straight monthly decline. The number of US entries rose only marginally (+0.3%) between April and May.
Source: Statistics Canada & BC STATS

- **The number of Canadians returning to BC from trips outside the country increased 1.7% (seasonally adjusted) in May.** However, day trips south of the border resumed their downward slide (-0.3%), as shoppers stayed closer to home. *Source: Statistics Canada & BC STATS*

- **Despite recent improvements, the number of visitors to the province remains well below last year's levels.** There were 709,600 traveller entries to BC in May (unadjusted). This compares to 785,900 in the same month last year.
Source: Statistics Canada

Access to Health Care

- **Almost one in five (19%) British Columbians who sought care for a minor health problem in 2001 reported encountering some sort of difficulty.** Problems ranged from getting an appointment to dealing with long waiting periods. Thirteen percent indicated that they had trouble getting health information or advice when needed, and 10% had trouble getting routine care. The experience of BC residents was similar to that in the rest of the country. Nationally, the biggest difficulties reported by people who sought routine or on-going care during regular office hours were either getting (42%) or waiting too long for (33%) an appointment. Twenty percent said the wait at the doctor's office was too long. *Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 85-575-XIE*

- **Ninety percent of BC residents had a regular family doctor in 2001.** This was slightly more than the national average of 88%. Quebecers were least likely (76%) to have a regular family physician, while residents of New Brunswick (95%) were most likely to have a family doctor. More than half (55%) of the people in BC who did not have a regular GP had not contacted one; the remaining 45% cited physician availability (36%) or other reasons (9%). While more than half (53%) of Canadians felt that their GP was providing excellent service, the percentage was significantly lower (48%) in BC. Manitoba (40%), PEI (48%) and Newfoundland (49%) were the only other provinces where less than half of the people felt that they were getting excellent service from their family doctor.
Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 85-575-XIE

Crime

- **British Columbia's crime rate increased to 11,430 incidents per 100,000 population in 2001.** The rate was 1.3% higher than in the previous year, following a national trend that saw the Canadian crime rate climb (+1.3%, to 7,747) for the first time in a decade. In BC, the violent crime rate fell 2.8%, to 1,217 while the national rate increased 1.3%, to 994. British Columbia was one of only three provinces where the violent crime rate dropped last year. However, the property crime rate increased 1.2%, to 6,451 per 100,000 population. The national average was 4,047, down 0.6% from 2000. *Source: Statistics Canada*

For data originating from Statistics Canada: data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database (www.statcan.ca); otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the publication name or catalogue number.

July 19, 2002 *Infoline Report:* **Trade with Mexico**

Contact: Dan Schrier, (250) 387-0376
Originally published in *Exports*, April 2002. Annual Subscription $60 + GST.

Team Canada Promotes Trade with Mexico

Team Canada, led by International Trade Minister Pierre Pettigrew, visited Mexico in the first week of June with the goal of promoting stronger business relations between Canada and Mexico. As a participant in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Mexico is already an important trade partner for Canada. In 1999 (the last year for which international trade data is available), Canada ranked second behind only the United States, the other signatory to NAFTA, in terms of a destination for Mexican exports. As a source of Mexican imports, Canada ranked fourth behind the US, Germany and Japan. However, in relation to the US, all other countries pale in comparison with respect to a trade relationship with Mexico. The US received over 85% of Mexican exports in 1999, compared to only 4% for second ranked Canada. The US was responsible for over 76% of Mexican imports, while second ranked Germany was far behind, at just under 4%. Japan was the source of just over 3% and Canada, around 2% of Mexico's imports.

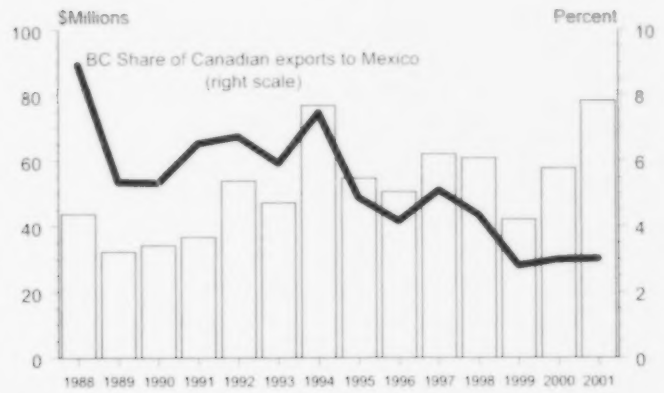
Nevertheless, Mexico is still an important trade partner for Canada, ranking sixth as a destination for Canadian exports and fourth as a source of Canadian imports[1]. For British Columbia, Mexico holds less importance in terms of trade, ranking only 18th for BC exports. In fact, since NAFTA came into effect in 1994, exports from BC have experienced relatively little growth and have steadily declined as a percentage of total Canadian exports.

PROFILE OF MEXICO

- Capital Mexico City
- Government Federal republic
- Language Spanish
- Currency Mexican peso
- Area 1,972,500 sq. km
- Population 97.5 million (2000)
- Work force 41 million (1999)
- GDP US$557 billion (2001)
- Annual real GDP growth 0%
- GDP Per Capita US$5,300

Source: U.S. Department of State

Free trade with Mexico has had little effect on BC exports

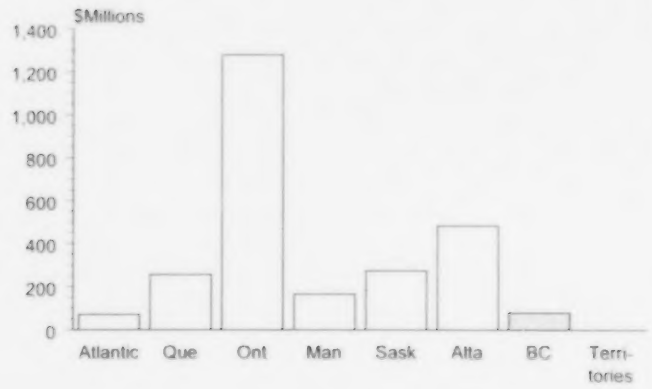


NAFTA has had less effect on BC with regard to trade with Mexico compared to most other provinces

[1] It should be noted that there is significant disagreement between Statistics Canada's figures and that of the Mexican statistical agency. Apparently there is a tendency to record the US as a final destination for Canadian exports to Mexico, thereby substantially underestimating the value of those shipments. As such, the data expressed in this report should be viewed with caution.

Only $78.2 million worth of goods were exported from BC to Mexico in 2001, which is about 3% of the Canadian total of $2.6 billion. British Columbia ranked sixth among the provinces ahead of only the Atlantic Provinces and the Territories with regard to exports to Mexico. Only 0.3% of British Columbia's total exports were destined for Mexico in 2001. This is up only slightly from 1990 when the figure was 0.2%.

BC ranks sixth among provinces for value of exports to Mexico



In 2001, BC ranked sixth among the provinces for value of exports to Mexico and as a destination for BC exports, Mexico ranked 18th

Ontario leads the way, having shipped almost $1.3 billion worth of goods to Mexico in 2001. The majority of these commodities were vehicles and vehicle parts. Despite the fact that almost half of Canada's exports to Mexico originated in Ontario, Mexico was the destination of less than one percent of Ontario exports. For both Ontario and Canada as a whole, only 0.7% of total exports were shipped to Mexico.

Alberta shipped just under half a billion dollars of goods to Mexico in 2001, or about 0.8% of the province's total exports. Agricultural products such as beef and wheat were the most significant exports.

Of all the provinces, Saskatchewan shipped the largest percentage of its total exports (2.3%) to Mexico. Over three-quarters of those exports were comprised of either wheat, or rape or colza seeds.

2001 Exports to Mexico
- Selected Commodities -

	BC ($,000)	% of Total	Canada ($,000)	% of Total	BC Percent of Canadian Exports
SOLID WOOD PRODUCTS	**694**	**1%**	**4,404**	**0%**	**16%**
Lumber (softwood)	396	1%	481	0%	82%
Plywood (softwood)	79	0%	83	0%	94%
Selected Value Added Wood Products	0	0%	2,183	0%	0%
other	220	0%	1,656	0%	13%
PULP AND PAPER PRODUCTS	**19,522**	**25%**	**96,789**	**4%**	**20%**
Pulp	5,424	7%	34,903	1%	16%
Newsprint	1,071	1%	32,365	1%	3%
Paper, Paperboard - exc. Newsprint	13,011	17%	20,220	1%	64%
other	16	0%	9,301	0%	0%
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD OTHER THAN FISH	**10,360**	**13%**	**947,208**	**36%**	**1%**
Fruit and Nuts	3,435	4%	3,496	0%	98%
Vegetables	275	0%	19,704	1%	1%
other	6,649	9%	924,009	36%	1%
FISH PRODUCTS	**0**	**0%**	**163**	**0%**	**0%**
METALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS	**9,663**	**12%**	**34,799**	**1%**	**28%**
Copper Ores and Concentrates	9,663	12%	9,663	0%	100%
Unwrought Aluminum	0	0%	24,885	1%	0%
Other Metallic Mineral Products	0	0%	251	0%	0%
ENERGY PRODUCTS	**26,393**	**34%**	**26,590**	**1%**	**99%**
Coal	26,393	34%	26,393	1%	100%
other	0	0%	197	0%	0%
MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT	**4,594**	**6%**	**1,192,067**	**46%**	**0%**
Motor Vehicles and Parts	58	0%	635,430	24%	0%
Electrical/Electronic/Communications	636	1%	81,598	3%	1%
other	3,899	5%	475,039	18%	1%
PLASTICS AND ARTICLES OF PLASTIC	**158**	**0%**	**35,350**	**1%**	**0%**
APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES	**1**	**0%**	**1,802**	**0%**	**0%**
ALL OTHER COMMODITIES	**6,784**	**9%**	**263,554**	**10%**	**3%**
GRAND TOTAL	**78,168**	**100%**	**2,602,726**	**100%**	**3%**

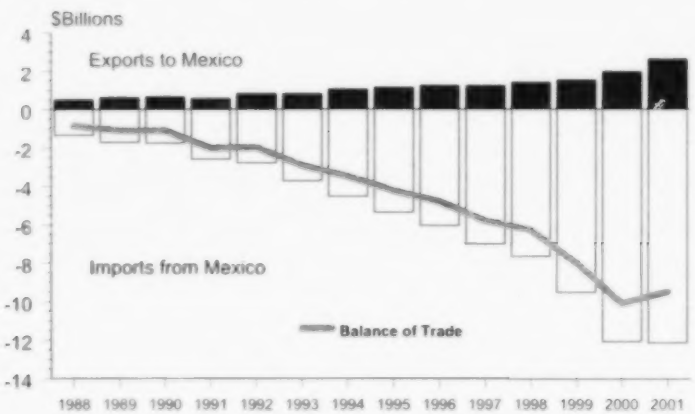
Machinery and equipment comprised approximately 46% of Canada's exports to Mexico, with motor vehicles and parts responsible for over half that, or 24% of total exports. Agricultural and food products made up 36% of total exports, with rape or colza seeds, beef and wheat making up a significant portion of that figure. With most of the automotive manufacturing in Canada taking place in Ontario, and much of the agricultural production occurring in the Prairie provinces, it is not particularly surprising, then, that BC has fewer exports to Mexico.

Goods demanded by Mexico are largely produced outside BC, which is why Mexico is not a more significant trade partner for BC

Over a third of BC's exports to Mexico in 2001 were shipments of coal. Pulp and paper products made up a quarter of BC origin exports to Mexico. Copper ores and concentrates were 12% of shipments. Only a small amount of solid wood products were shipped to Mexico. These commodities are generally considered BC's strengths, yet they comprised only about 5% of total Canadian exports to Mexico.

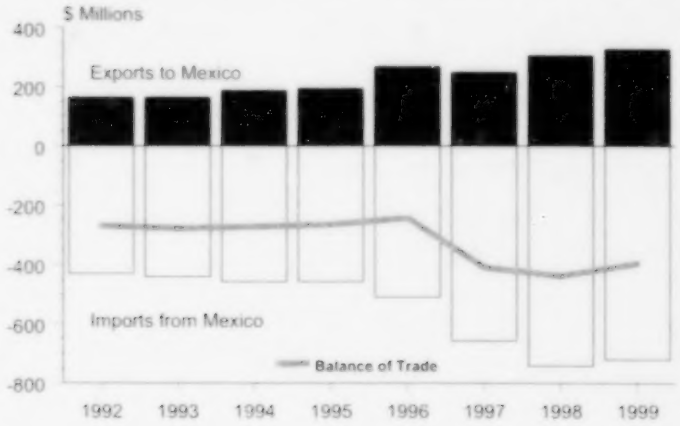
The trade deal may not have had much effect on BC exports to Mexico, but it has certainly led to increased imports from that country. Imports of Mexican goods entering Canada through BC customs ports have jumped by more than three times the value recorded in 1994. For Canada as a whole, both exports and imports have expanded over two and a half times since 1994. However, since imports were substantially larger to begin with, the trade deficit Canada had with Mexico has become even larger.

Canada's commodity trade deficit with Mexico continues to increase



Despite the fact commodity exports have more than doubled since NAFTA was enacted, Canada's trade deficit continues to increase

Canada also has a trade deficit with Mexico for services



Canada's balance of trade in services with Mexico is also in a deficit position, mainly due to tourist and business travel

The implementation of NAFTA has also resulted in increased trade in services between Canada and Mexico, but like commodity trade, Canada has a trade deficit in services[2]. A substantial portion of Canadian imports of services from Mexico is related to travel (both tourist and business travel). Approximately 80% of Canadian service imports from Mexico were services to travellers[3]. This is not very surprising considering that Mexico is a significant destination for Canadian tourists.

Canada's Trade in Services with Mexico

$ Millions	1997	1998	1999
Canadian Exports	**247**	**303**	**325**
Travel	105	123	144
Commercial Services	108	133	134
Transportation & Government	34	46	47
Canadian Imports	**657**	**741**	**721**
Travel	493	558	574
Commercial Services	96	102	77
Transportation & Government	68	80	70
Trade Balance	**-409**	**-438**	**-396**

Canada has an overall service trade deficit with Mexico, but has a trade surplus with respect to commercial services

Source: Statistics Canada, Canada's International Trade in Services, 2000, catalogue 67-203-XPB

Canada has a trade surplus in commercial services, which is mainly due to the significant amount of Canadian direct foreign investment in Mexico. According to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, in 2000, Canada ranked third in direct foreign investment in Mexico at over $3.2 billion, while

[2] Note that data for trade in services presented here is on a balance of payments basis, whereas data for trade in goods is on a customs basis. Therefore, the data is not strictly comparable and should not be summed.

[3] This does not include passenger fares between international destinations, which is included in transportation services.

Mexican investment in Canada was only $132 million. Canadian companies have been involved in consultation for projects in the transportation and energy sectors, and are becoming more involved in health care issues and telecommunication services.

With respect to the Team Canada mission, the federal government identified several areas that it considers priority sectors for expanded trade. Transportation is one area thought to have potential as Mexico looks to further modernise its infrastructure to help drive economic expansion. High technology areas such as aerospace and defence, telecommunications, information technology, and environmental technology are all emerging as sectors with potential for strong growth. The construction industry is a priority of the Vicente Fox administration and could create trade opportunities for Canada. While BC has historically lagged behind the rest of Canada in terms of trade with Mexico, there are opportunities, particularly in high technology and construction, for BC to expand its trade, both in goods and services.

Infoline

July 19, 2002

fax transmission information service from **BC STATS**

Email transmission information service from **BC STATS**

also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Apr 1/02	% change on one year ago
BC	4,118.1	0.9
Canada	31,260.4	0.9
GDP and INCOME		
(BC - at market prices)	2001	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	130,396	2.2
GDP *($ 1997 millions)*	125,534	0.9
GDP *($ 1997 per Capita)*	30,648	-0.1
Personal Disposable Income *($ 1997 per Capita)*	19,177	0.8
TRADE ($ millions)		
Manufacturing Shipments (seas. adj.) May	2,916	-1.7
Merchandise Exports (raw) Apr	2,553	-17.9
Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) Apr	3,325	7.0
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		
(all items - 1992=100)	May '02	% change on one year ago
BC	118.1	2.2
Canada	118.6	1.0
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	Jun '02	% change on one year ago
Labour Force - BC	2,158	2.7
Employed - BC	1,969	0.9
Unemployed - BC	189	25.0
		Jun '01
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	8.7	7.2
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.5	7.1
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jul 17/02	Jul 18/01
Prime Business Rate	4.50	6.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	5.55	6.70
- 5 year	7.25	7.75
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jul 17/02	Jul 18/01
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $	1.539	1.535
US $ *(reciprocal of the closing rate)*	0.649	0.651
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Jun '02	% change on one year ago
BC	668.57	3.0
Canada	650.36	2.5

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

2001 Census

Statistics Canada has released the second round of data from the 2001 Census showing the age and sex of the population. Although our provincial population grew by 4.9% between 1996 and 2001, the growth was all in the 45 and older age groups. For more information visit StatCan's website at:

http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/products/highlight/AgeSex/HighlightsTables.cfm?Lang=E

Released this week by BC STATS

- No major releases

Next week

- Consumer Price Index, June, 2002
- Business Indicators, July 2002
- Current Statistics, July 2002

BC STATS, Ministry of Management Services, Box 9410 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9V1

Tel: (250) 387-0327 Fax: (250) 387-0329 Web: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca E-mail: BC.Stats@gems8.gov.bc.ca